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January 7, 2005

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents

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Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: Group Art Unit 3763

Re: OFFICIAL RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

The following is an OFFICIAL RESPONSE to an Office Action filed April 25, 2004, in the below-identified U.S. Patent Application.

Application No.

10/708,509

Confirmation No. 2508

Applicant

Douglas R. Sparks et al.

Filing date

March 9, 2004

TC/Art Unit

3763

Examiner

:

Docket No.

A4-1713

Submitted by: Gary M. Hartman Reg. No. 33,898

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GaryM Hartman

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. :

10/708,509

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Examiner

Docket No.

A4-1713

Customer No.

27127

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.115

This paper is being filed on or before the mailing of a first Office Action.

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AMENDMENT SECTION:

PAGE:

Amendments to the Specification

Not applicable

Amendments to the Claims

Amendments to the Drawings

Not applicable

Remarks

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Attachment

Not applicable